THESE KIDS TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT

AS JASON BATEMAN AND JODIE FOSTER GO TO SHOW, NOT EVERY CHILD ACTOR CRASHES AND BURNS PAGE 11

VANCOUVER metro®

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Fewer days, lower prices: PNE CUTS BACK

Fairgoers enjoy a ride during the final day of the fair at the PNE in 2008. The fair announced Tuesday that it is cutting two Mondays from its schedule and decreasing prices slightly for 2013, but a spokesperson stressed that lower attendance isn't to blame. Story, page 4. RAFE ARNOTT/METRO FILE

Escort agency recruited via Facebook: Teen

After Dark. 17-year-old alleges that a Kamloops company approached her and several other girls

An escort agency in Kamloops is under fire over allegations it was contacting teenage girls through Facebook as part of a recruiting effort.

A 17-year-old girl said Tuesday that she and several of her friends were contacted on Facebook by Angels After Dark, an agency that boasts the hottest escorts in Kamloops.

The girl — who wants to remain anonymous — said she didn't respond but that when some of her friends did, the agency asked if they were underage.

When they said yes, the agency asked if they had any legally aged friends who wanted to make up to $500 a day, the girl added.

"I posted a status just asking has anyone else been poked or messaged. And I immediately got, like, five or six girls saying, 'Yeah, they poked me' and more friends even saying, like, they got messaged personally.

"I told my mom about it and asked what's an escort service and she immediately became aware and worried about it. Like, why me? I'm 17 years old and I don't really want to see that stuff."

While the company's website is still up, its Facebook profile has been taken down and no one from the agency would comment.

A Kamloops city official said there's no record of Angels After Dark having a business licence, so the agency would be operating illegally.

Planning and development manager Randy Lambright said such agencies usually don't have business addresses and often operate under the radar from out-of-town locations.

"We've tried to appeal to get some assistance, not necessarily to go after ... some of these escort agencies to gain compliance with the business-licence bylaw. We've had almost zero luck."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Revenue control

Future talks in limbo after 'sham' park board meeting

The saga between Vancouver's park board and community centre associations continued Tuesday after police were called to quell an angry crowd at a nine-hour public meeting Monday.

Despite overwhelming opposition, the board passed a plan to pool and control revenue from community centres pending five months of negotiations — prompting community members to question if they can trust the board to listen to them.

"The meeting was a complete sham," said president of the Hillcrest community centre board Jesse Johl. "This is basically staff running the show and the commissioners and councillors too scared to do the right thing."

If they were simply going to ignore them, the commissioners shouldn't have kept seniors waiting till past 3 a.m., Johl said.

Though the plan includes more negotiations, Johl said any meetings so far have been a "take it or leave it approach" and says an arbitrator is necessary.

But commissioner Niki Sharma is hopeful negotiations will lead to an agreement.

"There's a lot of common ground that was not there a year ago," she said, pointing to universal access and low-income cards.

The board needs to discuss a different financial model and engage the public, she said, but there must be some way to use surplus revenue to equalize the system.

Boards have tried to fix inequity over the past decade, she said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

A proposed apartment at 1600 Beach Ave. in Vancouver's West End. The homes would be cheaper than condos, but Christine Ackermann, president of the West End Residents Association, says the monthly rents are pricier than most residents can afford. HANDOUT/METRO

Rent is too high at proposed West End apts., council hears

Affordable living. At $1,125 for a studio, the apartments are too pricey for locals, argues the West End residents association

EMILY JACKSON
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Will West End locals be able to afford to live in proposed apartment developments along the waterfront?

That's the question the neighbourhood had for Vancouver city council as the rezoning of 1600 Beach Ave. and 1651 Harwood St. went to public hearing Tuesday night.

The developers want to build a nine-storey 118-unit building and a four-storey 15-unit building on the space between the existing towers. All of the units will be secured rentals under the city's short term incentives for rentals program.

But at a minimum of $1,125 for a studio, $1,390 for a one-bedroom and $1,900 for a two-bedroom, according to the proposal, the monthly rents are pricier than most residents can afford — even though they're cheaper than condos, said Christine Ackermann, president of the West End Residents Association.

"West Enders recognize the need for new rentals. We're not opposed to that," Ackermann said, but she'd like to see a few tweaks to the project to ensure it allows for diversity in the neighbourhood.

She recommends that the developer eliminate additional parking spots and use the extra cash to assign 10 to 20 per cent of the units affordable monthly rental rates — 30 per cent of a person's income, or about $950 a month in her community.

Residents are also concerned that the rezoning is happening before the completion of a comprehensive community plan, which is about halfway done, Ackermann added.

Consultation

- **Speaking up.** More than 50 people signed up to address council.
- **When to go.** The public hearing will continue Feb. 19.

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Not surprised? Vancouver priciest city in N. America

Living in a city wedged between the sea and the mountains apparently comes at a skyrocketing price: Vancouver has been crowned the most expensive city in North America.

Vancouver often ranks high on lists of the world's best cities to live in, but its notorious cost of living is now higher than New York's and Los Angeles's, according to the latest worldwide cost-of-living survey from the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Vancouver is now the 21st most expensive city in the world, up from 37th last year. The Big Apple and L.A. tied at 27th and were the most expensive U.S. cities.

Tokyo took the top spot, displacing the Swiss city of Zurich, which dropped to seventh. Osaka came in second, followed by Sydney, Oslo and Melbourne.

Asia and Australasia now account for 11 of the world's top 20 priciest cities.

Meanwhile, the least expensive cities include Karachi in Pakistan and Mumbai and New Delhi in India.

The survey compares prices across 160 products and services, including food, drink, rent, utilities, school costs and supplies. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Ouch

21st

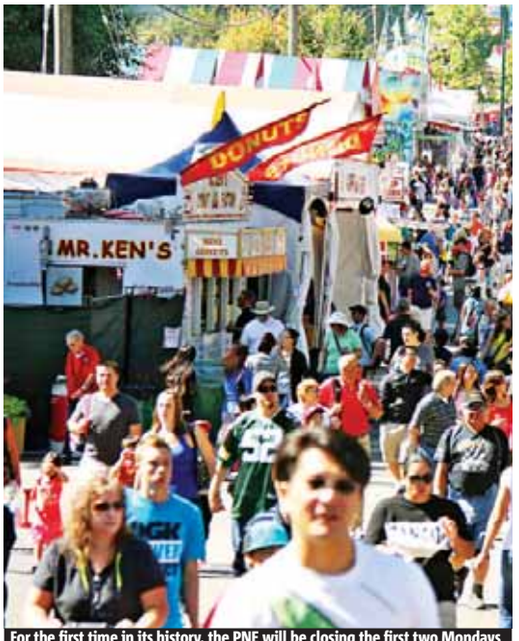
Vancouver is ranked the 21st most expensive city globally

B.C. ferry trial

'Black box' shows routine trip until missed turn

The trial of a crew member charged in a deadly ferry sinking off the B.C. coast has heard that data recorded about the ship's final voyage showed everything was routine until the vessel missed a turn that sent it sailing straight into an island. The Queen of the North sank in 2006 and fourth officer Karl Lilgert is on trial for criminal negligence causing the deaths of two passengers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PNE cuts prices and days off this year's fair



For the first time in its history, the PNE will be closing the first two Mondays of its summer fair. Adult admission will also be reduced to $16 instead of $20. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

Attendance down. Spokeswoman says changes due to challenging economic climate

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Vancouver's PNE is cutting two Mondays out of its summer fair and slashing ticket prices by 20 per cent, but a spokeswoman for the fair says low attendance is not to blame.

The PNE saw 940,000 visitors during the fair's 100th anniversary in 2010. That number dropped to more than 800,000 people in 2011, while last year's fair attendance dipped again to more than 750,000 visitors.

But PNE spokesperson Laura Ballance said management's decision to operate 15 days during its traditional seven-day run wasn't a reaction to the low attendance figures.

"This is a reaction to talking with our guests and hearing from them that the current economic climate in this province is such that it becomes more and more challenging to attend events with their families," she said Tuesday.

"This is something we've looked at over the last number of years. It's an industry best-practice in the United States, something that a lot of the very successful, longer-running fairs do," she added.

The savings from closing the fair's two traditionally slowest days will directly be passed on to the guests, Ballance said, making the fair at the PNE more accessible to B.C. families.

Adult admission will be $16 instead of $20, while onsite parking is also down to $16 from $20.

Ballance said additional ride, admission and food promotions, along with the PNE's entertainment program, will be announced closer to the fair.

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Bottoms up at UBC cancer-awareness event

Walk-through rubber bottom. Exhibit aims to raise awareness of colorectal cancer

LIAM BRITTEN
vancouver@metronews.ca

Visitors got to the bottom of things in a giant, inflatable colon exhibit at UBC.

The 40-foot-long, eight-foot-tall organ is a walk-through rubber tunnel filled with giant polyps, hemorrhoids and tumours. Video screens gave plenty of information to digest about colon diseases and their prevention.

Although the one-day event was fun for attendees, Frank Pitman, from the Colorectal Cancer Association, was there to give serious information.

His sister died of the disease, and five years ago, he too was diagnosed. He's clear now, but wants others to avoid his mistakes and get tested.

"I wasn't pushed to get a colonoscopy," he said. "It's still a taboo subject. Men are the worst offenders. They have to be pushed by their wives a lot of the time to go. The main thing with this exhibit is to get people to talk to their physician."

Linda Roseborough from UBC's risk-management-services department invited the CCA to bring the display. She too has a personal connection to the ravages of colon cancer: It claimed the life of her grandmother.

Roseborough wanted a fun way to build awareness and get people talking.

"We wanted people to have that opportunity to see something totally different," she said. "Hopefully, we'll prevent some cancers, maybe save some people's lives."

Medical students Keira Dheensaw, from left, Candace Munro and Ben Trepanier check out the colon exhibit at UBC on Tuesday. LIAM BRITTEN/METRO

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Skepticism

U.S. attitudes toward climate change fluctuate with weather: UBC study

A UBC study finds that skepticism about climate change among Americans increases during cold snaps and concern grows during hot spells.

The study, published Tuesday in the journal Climatic Change, found a strong connection between U.S. weather trends and public and media attitudes toward climate science over the last 20 years.

Using 1990-2010 data from U.S. public opinion polls and coverage in major newspapers, the researchers found headline-making weather can strongly influence climate beliefs, particularly for people without strong convictions about climate change to begin with.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Transit

Vancouver man charged after alleged death threats

A 46-year-old Vancouver man has been charged after allegedly threatening to shoot a Coast Mountain bus operator.

Richard David Male was charged with uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm.

Saturday night a bus driver was picking up passengers when a female passenger told him that a man was sexually harassing her at the bus stop.

Transit police say the man boarded the bus and "became verbally abusive" to the operator, who then asked the man to leave the bus. When the man refused, the operator pushed his intercom alarm button to call for help. That's when police say the man started swearing and threatening the driver, saying, "I have a gun in my pocket and will shoot you in the head."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

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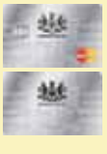

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Canadian believed to be behind Bulgarian bus bombing: Baird

Dual citizen. Suspect in July attack lived in Lebanon, but entered with Canadian passport

A bus is moved from the airport in Burgas, Bulgaria, after an attack on vacationing Israelis last July. IMPACT PRESS GROUP FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A Canadian "dual national" living in Lebanon is believed to be involved in the deadly bus bombing in Bulgaria last July, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird confirmed Tuesday.

But key questions remained unanswered as Canada coped with the second allegation by a foreign government in recent weeks that Canadians took part in terrorist attacks abroad.

"This is not a resident of Canada. It's a dual national who I am told resides in Lebanon," Baird told a news conference on Parliament Hill.

"I couldn't even tell you the last time this person was in Canada," he said, adding that the suspect is still at large.

The person entered Bulgaria with a Canadian passport and is believed to be linked to Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group and political party.

The attack killed five Israelis and their Bulgarian driver.

Tuesday's disclosure comes as Ottawa has yet to corroborate a claim by Algeria that at least one Canadian took part in a deadly attack on a Saharan gas plant last month.

"We've had a more robust engagement with Bulgaria, and they provided more information," Baird said. "The situation in Algeria is just completely different. We don't even have a name."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Provincial partners

Sask. premier calls Que. a 'distraction' on health council

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says it's not surprising that Quebec has pulled out of a national health-care committee set up by the provinces.

"Quebec has been more of a distraction at this table than a constructive partner," Wall, co-chair of the committee, said Tuesday in an email to The Canadian Press.

Quebec's decision was made public on Monday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Terrorism

U.S. freer than thought to kill citizens abroad

An unclassified memo reveals that the Obama administration has had more lenient rules than publicly known for when drones can be launched to kill U.S. citizens working abroad with terrorists.

The government does not need evidence that an attack is imminent, only that a suspect is plotting.

Controversy grew after a September 2011 drone strike in Yemen that killed two U.S. citizens.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harvard University

Study finds racial bias in Google ads

There is "significant discrimination" in the way ads are placed in Google searches depending on whether a name is seen as white or black, a Harvard University study has found.

A black-sounding name was 25 per cent more likely to get a link advertising a search of their criminal record, according to author Prof. Latanya Sweeney.

One answer to the discrepancy may lie in Google's algorithms, which learn over time which ad text gets the most clicks.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Decision day: Consumers get their paws on the Z10

Retail debut. First day of sales doesn't match mania around iPhone launches, but numbers are 'quite robust'

Peter Rosenthal, right, talks with sales representative Dan Marsan about his new BlackBerry Z10 at a Rogers store in Montreal on Tuesday during the Canadian launch of the device. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

There weren't any lineups around the block, but Canadians finally had a chance to get their hands on the new BlackBerry smartphone Tuesday as the device went on sale across the country.

The company behind the once-dominant phone joined with Rogers Communications to hold a media event in downtown Toronto, where a small number of customers who pre-ordered the BlackBerry Z10 activated their devices in front of the cameras.

About 24 people showed up at the event, Rogers spokeswoman Michelle Kelly said.

But the fanfare around first day of sales paled in comparison to Apple's iPhone launches, when sometimes hundreds of people wait outside stores to be among the first to own the latest model.

"Twelve years with the same company and I haven't switched," said Joseph Santos, a professed BlackBerry loyalist, who works as an IT manager in Toronto. "Being the head of an IT department, there was a lot of pressure to go to an Android phone. I kind of fought them off. This is my last stand here."

The BlackBerry launch comes after several delays left longtime fans either sticking with their older phones or switching to a competitor's phone. The new BlackBerry is expected to sell for around $150 on a three-year contract. Koodo is selling it without a contract for $550.

Albert Lee, a spokesman for Bell, could not provide any preliminary sales statistics, but did say the number of pre-orders the company has seen for the Z10 "were higher than any other BB (BlackBerry) before."

"We're seeing intense interest today — sales are quite robust," Lee said in an email. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Burger scandal

Irish PM gets on his high horse

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny says the latest finding of horsemeat in products labelled as Polish beef is harming Ireland's reputation as an exporter of high-quality meat products. Last month, DNA tests on dozens of beef burger brands found some contained horse as a substantial ingredient. Irish investigators claim to have pinned the problem on Polish offcuts imported to Ireland for use as filler in factory-made burger patties. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Environmental audit. Resource boom is outstripping Canada's eco safeguards, watchdog finds

Canada's aggressive pursuit of resource development is exposing the country to heightened environmental and financial risks that are not being properly handled by federal regulators, a new audit says.

In his final report to Parliament after five years on the job, Scott Vaughan — Canada's commissioner of the environment and sustainable development — said government is not keeping sufficient tabs on mining in the North, offshore drilling in the Atlantic and hydraulic fracturing in hundreds of thousands of shale gas wells sprouting up across the country.

Nor are regulators equipped to deal with major oil spills or an expected 300 per cent increase in tanker traffic off the West Coast, the report states.

"We know that there's a boom in natural resources in this country. I think what we need now ... is a boom in environmental protection in this country as well," Vaughan said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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J.J. ABRAMS IS A NEW HOPE FOR STAR WARS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Here's an idea:

The world is a dream and the dreamer is a guy named J.J. Abrams.

If you want proof, just about everything you watch starts in the head of J.J. Abrams.

Here's just a partial list. On TV: Felicity, Alias, Lost, Fringe, Person of Interest and Revolution.

Movies: Super 8, Cloverfield, Mission Impossible, the reboot of the Star Trek franchise and now the reboot of the Star Wars franchise.

Episode VII

J.J. Abrams is the Steven Spielberg AND the George Lucas of the second decade of the 21st century.

J.J. Abrams is the Steven Spielberg AND the George Lucas of the second decade of the 21st century. He's the guy who is personally responsible for keeping Luke Skywalker and Captain Kirk alive and vital.

And also keeping Hollywood alive and vital.

While other directors and producers have been overtaken by a geriatric psychosis that causes them to produce the same Bruce Willis, Sylvester Stallone or Arnold Schwarzenegger movie over and over and over again to empty theatres, Abrams is busily luring the multichannel generation back into the multiplex with the consummate skills of a master showman. Not-your-father's Star Trek became relevant and sexy all over again under Abrams' direction and, not incidentally, grossed $385 million worldwide.

Disney, which paid Lucas $4 billion for the Star Wars franchise, is betting that the force remains strong with this one, and announced recently that Abrams will direct Star Wars: Episode VII, which finally picks up where Luke, Han Solo, Princess Leia and all the Wookies, Ewoks and Jedi Knights left it long, long ago and far, far away, before Lucas the evil revisionist spoiled the whole thing with Jar Jar Binks.

If you don't think Jar Jar Binks was enough to bring down the franchise, you didn't read the reviews of his first appearance in Episode I: The Phantom Menace. One described Jar Jar as a "Rastafarian Stepin Fetchit on platform hoofs, crossed annoyingly with Butterfly McQueen."

It will be interesting to see if Jar Jar Binks survives to stumble again in Episode VII, which is scheduled to be released in 2015. Or thereabouts. Meanwhile, Abrams is keeping all those Mission Impossible and Star Trek balls in the air.

Not everyone is happy that J.J. Abrams has been given the keys to all their favourite franchises. The Twitterverse is buzzing: One tweeter alleges that J.J. Abrams's name is actually Jar Jar (for the record, it's Jeffrey Jacob) and another calls it "genre bogarting." But there is hope.

"As long as J.J. Abrams avoids Severe Blunt Force Trauma to the Head, these new Star Wars films will be WAY better than the last ones," says one fan who, you have to admit, has a way with 140 characters.

Speaking of franchises, I wonder if J.J. Abrams has met J.K Rowling.

J.J. Abrams may prove his critics wrong. GETTY IMAGES

The way the cookie crumbles

JOCHEN LUEBKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Impostor strikes again

Stolen cookie sculpture found on horse's neck

German police have recovered a cookie sculpture that may have been stolen by someone impersonating the Cookie Monster.

Police spokeswoman Jacobe Heers says the 20-kilogram gilded sculpture was found Tuesday morning outside the Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany.

It was hanging from the neck of a horse sculpture with a red ribbon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Open, Sesame

'Cookie Monster' demands donations

The century-old cookie was reported stolen last month from the office of a bakery company in Hannover.

A local newspaper later received a letter demanding cookies be delivered to children at a hospital. The paper also received a picture of someone dressed like Sesame Street's Cookie Monster holding what appeared to be the stolen cookie.

The Bahlsen company promised a reward of 52,000 packets of cookies for a charitable cause if their emblem turned up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bahlsen CEO Werner Michael Bahlsen appealed to the extortionists to return the stolen cookie logo on Jan. 30.
JOCHEN LUEBKE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Inset: A statue on the facade of the cookie maker before and after the sculpture was stolen. CONTRIBUTED

Bahlsen already gives

Biscuit bandit still on the lam

No suspect has been apprehended.

"I have the cookie! And you want it," the ransom note reads. "You must give all the children milk chocolate cookies on one day in February — and not dark chocolate." It's signed "Cookie Monster."

A spokesperson for the children's hospital called the prank blackmail, adding that Bahlsen already does so much for the hospital and coercion is not necessary.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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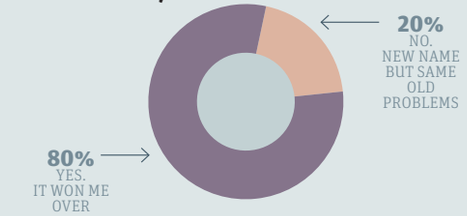
Will the Z10 save BlackBerry (formerly known as RIM)?



Twitter

@VanMayorsOffice: Thanks to everyone who came out to the Pt Grey/Cornwall corridor open houses. 500+ people over three sessions! #vanpoli @vantransp2040

@GregMooredotca: @adriandix stats at the @TriCitiesCoC luncheon that if #BCNDP elected they would provide @TransLink funding from the Carbon Tax no specifics

@terrylakemla: In beautiful #PrinceRupert today looking for clear answers at the JRP pipeline hearings #bcpoli #env http://tinyurl.com/bgrwkp8

@DavidSuzukiFDN: The feds doesn't actually know whether shale gas development is contaminating water - enviro. watchdog. http://ow.ly/hrEwP

@sportsnetmurph: Chris Tanev trying desperately to take over from Mikael Samuelsson for most awkward interview moments. The stop and stare was big. #canucks

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SCENE

Ceremony

Harvard honours Sutherland

Golden-Globe-winning actor Kiefer Sutherland has been named Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

Sutherland will be roasted and receive his ceremonial pudding pot at a ceremony scheduled for Friday. The 46-year-old Sutherland has been in dozens of films but is perhaps best known for his role as Jack Bauer in the television series 24, for which he won Golden Globe and Primetime Emmy awards. He is currently starring in the television show Touch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kiefer Sutherland.
GETTY IMAGES

Showtime

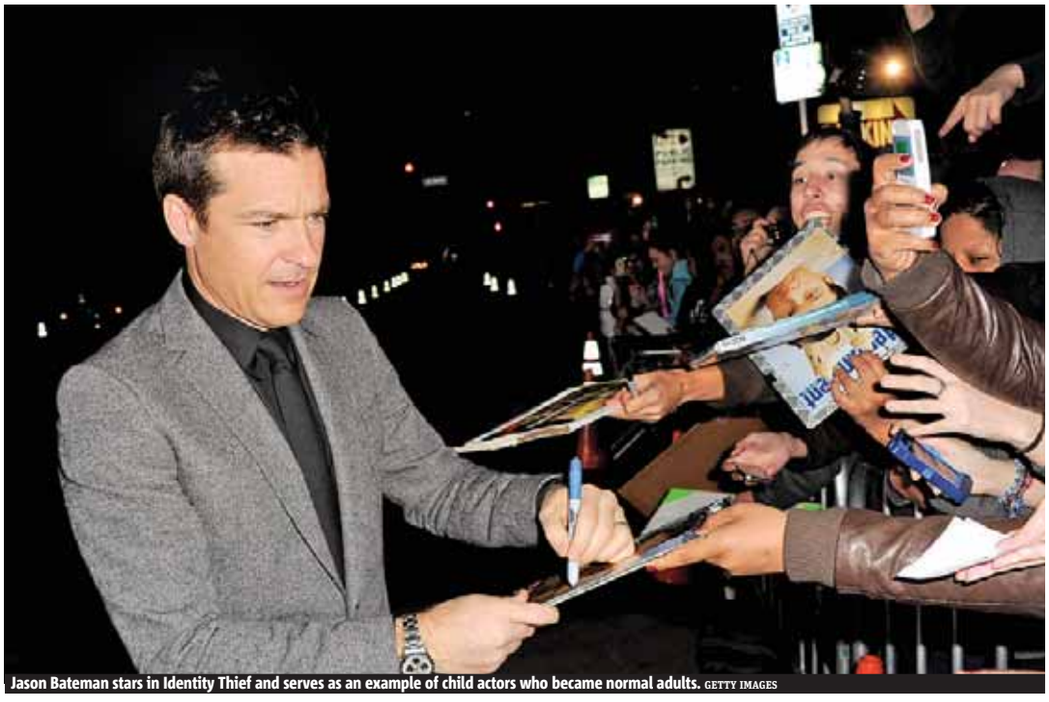
Damon to play parody of himself

Matt Damon is becoming a TV comedy regular.

Showtime said Monday that Damon will guest star next week on House of Lies. He'll play what the channel called a "maniacal megastar" version of himself.

Last month, Damon staged a mock takeover of Jimmy Kimmel's ABC talk show, tying Kimmel to a chair and acting as host for a night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jason Bateman stars in Identity Thief and serves as an example of child actors who became normal adults. GETTY IMAGES

Finding an adult Identity

Child actors. A look at those, including Jason Bateman of Identity Thief, who bucked the trend and became successful adult actors

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

It's a pop culture cliché that all child actors grow up to become the subject of tragic tabloid stories. Sure, adulthood was not kind to Gary Coleman or Jodie Sweetin (although she does earn a point or two for the title of her tell-all, unSweetined), but there are dozens of kid actors who grew up to have fulfilling careers in Hollywood.

She's no Lindsay Lohan

"I don't know why people think child actresses in particular are screwed up."

Jodie Foster
Talking about the perception of child actors.

Jason Bateman is one of the lucky ones who made the transition to adult roles with ease. At 12 he debuted as James Ingalls on Little House on the Prairie and, dozens of credits later, this weekend stars in Identity Thief opposite comedy it-girl Melissa McCarthy.

The longevity of his career is dwarfed by Jodie Foster, whose 47 years on screen have seen her do everything from Disney movies like Freaky Friday to playing an underage prostitute in Taxi Driver to winning Oscars for The Accused and The Silence of the Lambs.

"I don't know why people think child actresses in particular are screwed up," she says. "I see kids everywhere who are totally bored. I've never been bored a day in my life."

Mickey Rooney's cameo appearance in The Muppets marked 10 decades of acting in movies. He was just a year-and-a-half old when he began performing in his parent's vaudeville act and made his first film just a few years later, playing Mickey McGuire in a series of short films. The audition breakdown requested a young boy with dark hair, so Mickey's mom rubbed burnt cork to his scalp to colour his blonde hair.

Long before Elijah Wood donned huge hairy feet and went off in search of the magical ring in Lord of the Rings, he kept busy as a child actor in movies like Internal Affairs and Radio Flyer.

It's hard to top winning an Oscar at age 11, but Anna Paquin has gone on to distinguish herself in indie hits like The Squid and The Whale and on television in True Blood. And speaking of Oscars, one of this year's best actor nominees, Joaquin Phoenix, made his debut at age eight, appearing on an episode of Seven Brides For Seven Brothers with his brother River.

"There are kids who get on a BMX bike when they're eight and they go, 'Whoa, this is incredible' and grow up to do extreme sports," he said. "It's the same for me with acting."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Selena Gomez ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Bible study group newest Hollywood hotspot?

Apparently the hottest new young Hollywood hangout isn't a nightclub but a weekly bible study group — which Selena Gomez, Vanessa Hudgens and 90210 star Matt Lanter have reportedly been attending, according to Us Weekly. Gomez has even brought ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber to the group, which meets monthly at a Beverly Hills hotel. "Justin's come in before and his mom, Pattie, is a regular," a source says. The group is reportedly organized by E! correspondent Jason Kennedy.

The Word

Wallis' puppy purses make a splash on red carpet

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It's a very slow gossip day and honestly, if I have to write one more thing about the feud between Brandi Glanville and LeAnn Rimes, I'm going to pack up my things and move to Vermont where I will spend the rest of my days knitting and raising cattle and never reading another Us Weekly ever again. Or raising Budweiser Clydesdales. Whichever.

So, today's column will be about something totally rad and worth highlighting: The awesomeness that is Oscar nominee Quvenzhané Wallis' puppy purses.

Wallis owns 20 of the purses, designed by Poochie & Co., and they've been a mainstay on the red carpet for the nine-year-old actress. "That's my signature," she told Ellen DeGeneres about rocking the accessory time and time again. And yes, expect to see one pop up (pup up?) at the Oscars. When asked by Jay Leno on The Tonight Show who she'll be taking to the awards ceremony, she held up her puppy purse and said, "This and my mom."

Cute, right? In Hollywood, where we force our girls to grow up much too quickly, it's nice to see a little girl act like a little girl. And carry a mass-produced purse that looks like a little dog instead of, you know, Gucci. You go, Quvenzhané Wallis.

Trump sues Maher for $5 million

Donald Trump is suing Bill Maher for $5 million over a charity wager, according to E! News. Maher reportedly agreed to donate that amount to charity if Trump could prove — by producing a birth certificate — that he was not the child of an orangutan. Maher made the offer during a visit to The Tonight Show after Trump infamously made a similar $5 million charity donation offer to Barack Obama that was widely criticized.

Donald Trump

Twitter

@ShiaLaBeouf
how are you guys doing?

@JoshRadnor
Pretending like I don't like 'Peter, Paul, & Mary' is exhausting.

@Bitchuation
When there is a sign posted in a bar that says WE ID ALL GUESTS and they don't ID you, is that bad?

@SarahKSilverman
Oh Jesus I just woke up did Beyonce win?

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5 Spring break spots

You've been camping out in the library studying for weeks and the thought of writing one more assignment makes you want to hurl your Easy Mac 'n Cheese. Fear not! Spring break is right around the corner, and whether you long for the beach, slopes or partying like it's ... er, 2013, here's the top five hot spots crawling with students who, like you, are willing to sacrifice a few brain cells for a week of fun.

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca

VLITVINOV/FLICKR

Daytona Beach, Fla.

White sand beaches, warm weather and partying around the clock awaits students who want to let loose. The hotels cater to budget-conscious students so you can have a week of fun in the sun without dipping too much into your student loan.
Good if: You want the classic spring break experience.
Bad if: You want to feel rested when you get back.

Mont Tremblant, Que.

If you daydream in philosophy class about carving through fresh powder, then make your way to this popular ski city. Busloads of students will be doing the same, making the nightlife in the village a can't-miss during spring break. Think you'll break your neck on the slopes? Try dogsledding or tubing.
Good if: You want to cuddle up with a ski bunny at night.
Bad if: You underdress and get frostbite.

TREMBLANT PHOTOS/FLICKR

New Orleans

It's a gritty city that celebrates sin. February is Mardi Gras month and depending on when you arrive, the French Quarter will be bustling with parties so wild that you'll be repeating stories of that "amazing spring break" well into your golden years. New Orleans is a safe city as long as you stick to the highly populated areas.
Good if: You're into voodoo.
Bad if: Parades and scantily clad women scare you.

CLETCH/FLICKR

GPOO/FLICKR

Montreal

Students looking for more of a cosmopolitan experience will find it in the historically rich and charming streets of Montreal. It may not be 30 C and sunny, but there's literally hundreds of restaurants to cosy up in with some comfort food when you're not busy exploring an art gallery or boutique.
Good if: You're underage because the legal drinking age is 18.
Bad if: You hate winter.

Cancun, Mexico

This list would lack credibility if it didn't include the sun and booze-soaked experience that is Cancun. The main strip has student-friendly hotels and the glorious weather makes lounging by the pool the obvious thing to do during the day. The exciting nightlife attracts people from all over North America and Cancun is safe for travellers. But like all party towns, it's wise to stay with your friends at all times.
Good if: "Tequila" is your middle name.
Bad if: You don't believe in cleanses, because your liver will need it.

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Where the ladies at? Try Bermuda

Island escape. This small northern Caribbean destination is the perfect spot to leave the stress of home behind

KATHY BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

Sun, spa and shopping. The perfect girls getaway trifecta can be found on the island of Bermuda. Only 42 square kilometres in area, this northern Caribbean destination is a quick trip from Toronto but a long, long way from the routine of kids, work and making dinner.

Bermuda has two distinct precincts: Hamilton and St. George's. Hamilton offers up high street shopping and a wide selection of restaurants. The British influence is heavily felt throughout, including the micro Marks & Spencer store, a favourite for visitors and expats. The Fairmont Hamilton Princess is centrally located, and provides accommodation within three main lodge-style buildings.

The two pools and hot tubs are perfectly situated for an expansive view of the Atlantic Ocean and the island itself. Poolside at the Fairmont Princess in Hamilton Bermuda is a relaxing way to unwind after touring the shops of its quaint downtown.

A free ferry service is offered to residents of the Fairmont Princess across to the Fairmont Southampton. Upon landing, the hotel's flagship restaurant, Ocean Club, has a menu that takes full advantage of the wide variety of seafood available, including the local specialty, rockfish. A trolley bus is at the ferry to meet passengers, who take a five-minute ride up the hill to the main building, home to the acclaimed Willowstream spa, a favourite for pampered perfection.

After a spa treatment, guests are welcome to slide into the outdoor hot tubs or take a swim in the indoor pool. Wait staff are more than happy to serve up nibbles and the cocktail of your choice, while you lounge in the sun and take in the vista.

Visiting the island during the Bermuda Triangle Challenge Race (run every January) brings a physical fitness element to an escape. The challenge includes the International Mile starting and finishing on the main street of Hamilton, the 10k run and walk the next day, and a half marathon to complete the triangle.

Runners and walkers alike wind their way around the beautiful vistas and it isn't uncommon to see them stop to take pictures along the route.

On the other side of the island, the town of St. George's offers up authentic island goods in a small and easily walkable shopping district. "Random Acts of Knitting" can be found on light poles and palm trees, which add to the vibrant colours of the town, already populated with brightly painted buildings. Lunch at local favourite Wahoo's provides for a great taste of the island with a daily menu, but most often features rockfish, done in inventive sauces and styles. Segway tours are available, and the town hall is open to the public, and has a remnant from the past present, — the gallows that are still standing in the town square.

WestJet flies to St. Lucia from Toronto three times a week. For information on Fairmonts in Bermuda, visitfairmont.com/Bermuda.

Sun and azure waters. What more could a girl ask for? ALL PHOTOS: KATHY BUCKWORTH

And for the boys...

It's not just about the women; Bermuda is a favourite of men as well, with its many golf courses and rum tastings. Gosling's Rum has been around since 1806, and offers tours to see how its famous Black Seal rum is made, and of course, tasted. This is an essential ingredient in the island's signature drink, the "Dark and Stormy". Visit goslingsrums.com for more information.

Turtle Hill Golf Club, conveniently located at the Fairmont Southampton, offers a challenging 18 par three hole course set amongst the natural beauty and changing elevation of the island. Lessons are available for beginners, as well as bag storage and club rentals. For those wanting a longer game, visits to Port Royal, Riddell's Bay or Belmont Hills (all championship courses) can be organized by the hotel's Golf Concierge. fairmontgolf.com

Salad that packs a protein punch without meat: Hearty Grain & Quinoa

Edamame, grains and cheese ensure this unusual and refreshing salad has a main course level of protein.

1. Bring medium saucepan of water to a boil. Add edamame and corn. Reduce heat to medium; simmer 3 to 4 minutes. Drain; set aside to cool.

2. Meanwhile, gently squeeze pouch all over to break the rice apart. Tear top corners of pouch about 1/2 inch (1 cm). Place pouch, upright, in the microwave and heat on high for 1 minute and 30 seconds. Let stand in microwave 1 to 2 minutes. Caution: Pouch will be hot.

3. Carefully remove from microwave, holding sides. Pour into a bowl, stir and set aside to cool.

4. In small bowl, whisk together shallot, lemon juice, oil and pepper until combined.

5. Add edamame, corn, tomatoes and feta cheese to cooled rice mixture. Drizzle dressing over top; toss lightly to combine.

NEWS CANADA/ PC.CA

Ingredients

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen edamame
- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen corn
- 1 pkg (250 g) PC Blue Menu Whole Grain Brown Rice with Lentils and Quinoa Blend
- 1 shallot, minced
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) fresh lemon juice
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) omega oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup (250 ml) cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) drained and crumbled light feta cheese in brine

This recipe serves four. NEWS CANADA

Drink of the Week

Tropical Peace Breeze Smoothie

Dreaming of warmer weather? Make this snack that features peaches, ginger and coconut water.

- 1 (14 oz/398 ml) can California Cling Peaches in fruit juices from concentrate
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) coconut water or plain or vanilla almond milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) Greek vanilla, honey or peach yogurt, preferably 0%
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ginger
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) nutmeg
- Honey or agave syrup

Drain peaches, reserving 2 tbsp (30 ml) juice. Place peaches, reserved peach juice, coconut water or almond milk, yogurt, vanilla, ginger and nutmeg in a blender. Blend until smooth. If you wish, sweeten with honey or agave syrup.

NEWS CANADA/ CALCLINGPEACH.CA

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The tree of life. In this time of employment uncertainty, only you can prevent a forest industry labour shortage

CASSANDRA JOWETT
TalentEgg.ca

Feeling lost in a web of we'll-let-you-knows? Your prospects might just be looking up. ISTOCK

If you don't know much about the forest products industry and its career opportunities, no one could blame you.

It's a sector that has flown under the radar for much of the last decade, losing as many as 70,000 jobs in the wake of a stronger Canadian dollar, changes in the global economy, the increasing prevalence of digital media, and the U.S. housing market collapse and subsequent recession in 2008.

More recently, however, it seems as though the industry's fortunes are changing.

There is increased global demand for traditional Canadian wood and paper products, and the innovative new technologies being developed here are capturing the attention of people around the world.

The only thing holding it back now, though, is a looming talent shortage.

Why the forest products industry needs you

According to a report released by the Forest Products Sector Council (FPSC) in 2011, it is estimated that more than one third of the industry's aging workforce — about 50,000 people — will leave within the next 10 years.

"It's hard to imagine that we're facing labour challenges after shedding so many jobs," says Jim Farrell, Executive Director of the FPSC, but the industry's long-standing public perception and image problems, coupled with its current demographics, mean there just aren't enough people to replace all of the baby boomers who are slated to retire.

The number of young people working in the sector is at a historical low compared to the overall workforce, so it may need to hire as many as 120,000 people by the year 2020.

About one third of forest products employers say they are already making significant efforts to target youth for recruitment into the sector, with many more sure to follow.

Beyond lumber, pulp and paper

Canada's forest products sector is carving a new path for itself that goes far beyond the traditional industry staples of lumber and paper.

"There's more effort being made by companies as well as government to accelerate transformation in the industry," Farrell says. "We currently have eight research networks with 27 universities across the country."

Those research networks are developing products such as antibiotics and pharmaceuticals, biofuels and bioplastics, glues, enzymes and paints, artificial flavours and fertilizers — all derived from Canadian wood, which is a completely renewable resource.

"This is the kind of thinking that, within 10 years, could put Canada's forest products industry in a fundamentally different place than it was before," Jim says.

"We're going to need a whole bunch of smart, educated people to enter the industry."

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Timothy Boodram
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Timothy Boodram PROVIDED

I am a recent graduate who is finding the transition to work difficult. I have been applying for work for almost a year now and have had little luck. I've been interviewed twice, but haven't been able to land the job. For one job, I had made it through three rounds of interviews over the span of a month and a half, but they said they were looking for someone with more direct experience in a certain role. I think my age was a big factor.

In the meantime, I've been trying to keep busy by coding websites, but nothing paid.

What I'm doing now

I'm keeping busy doing some personal work to strengthen my portfolio and I've been waking up every morning and scouring the Internet for possible job openings.

I've been considering new career options since I have been an unemployed graduate for almost a year. I've also applied to grad school in September as a backup.

My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

Employers in the area of web design/programming really need to focus on making more accurate job listings.

I found several listings that are advertised as being "new graduate" positions. However, they often list qualifications that no new graduate could possibly possess.

Often I see posts requiring knowledge of 10 plus programming languages and five plus years of experience. From speaking with employers, they often say they do this to receive confident applicants only. From speaking with students and graduates, it's very intimidating and discouraging for us because we all feel very unqualified.

New graduate positions need to cater to new graduates. Offer us a position where we can help, and provide a way for us to learn on the job.

My advice for other students and recent graduates

The majority of employed graduates from my graduating year got their job through someone they know. It's all about who you know, and less about what you know (although this is still important to KEEP that job). Network, network, network.

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Program	Campus
Transportation trades Tuesday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m. - lobby, building B	Broadway
Teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) Tuesday, Feb. 12, 12 p.m. – room 512	Downtown
Baking and pastry arts Wednesday, Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m. – room 216	Downtown
University transfer Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m. – room 1228	Broadway
Adult upgrading Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m. – room 1228	Broadway
Access to practical nursing Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4:30 p.m. – room 1227	Broadway
Hair design Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4:30 p.m. – room 201	Downtown
Skin and body therapy (esthetics) Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4:30 p.m. – room 201	Downtown
Administrative assistant Thursday, Feb. 14, 3:30 p.m. – room 622	Downtown
Jewellery art and design Friday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m. – room 160	Downtown
Music Friday, Feb. 15, 12:30 p.m. – room 1228	Broadway
Certified dental assisting Tuesday, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m. – room 501	Downtown
Dental reception Tuesday, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m. – room 501	Downtown
Electronic media design Tuesday, Feb. 19, 6 p.m. – room 819	Downtown

Downtown campus is located at 200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton, two blocks west of Stadium SkyTrain station.

Broadway campus is located at 1155 East Broadway, one block west of Clark Drive and across from VCC/Clark SkyTrain station.

Visit **vcc.ca** or call **604.871.7000**.

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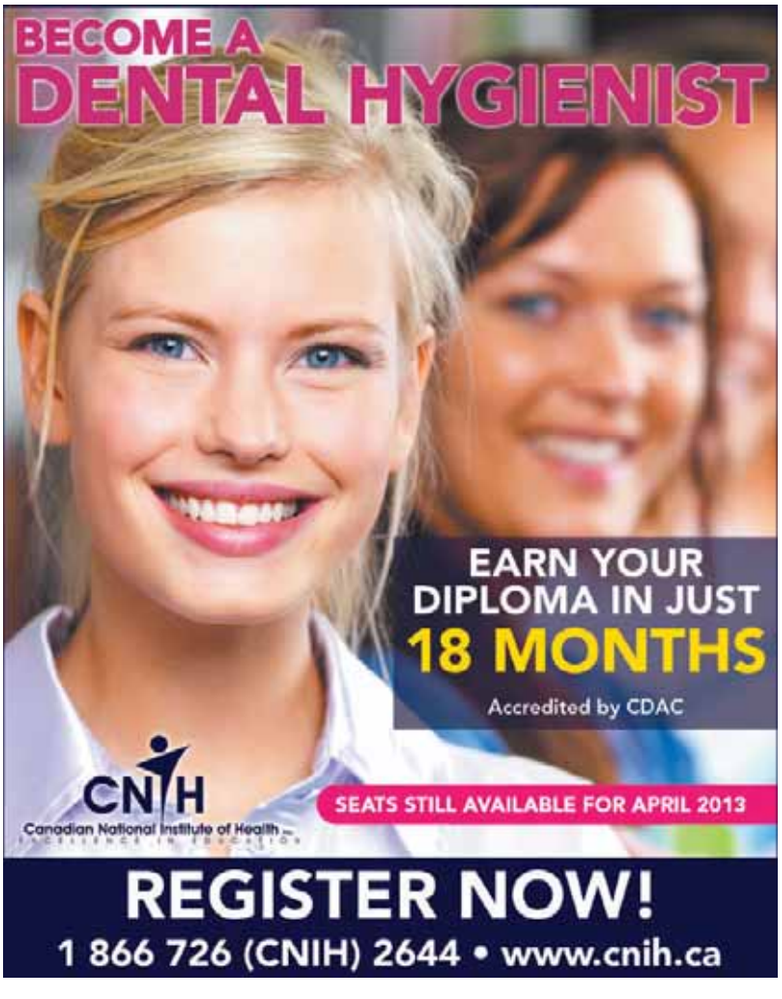

Soccer

Whitecaps called up to Canada

Three more members of the Vancouver Whitecaps got called for international duty.

Midfielder Bryce Alderson, striker Caleb Clarke and residency striker Yassin Essa were called up to Canada's U-20 national team for training camp in Mexico City.

The camp runs Feb. 11-16. The 2013 CONCACAF U-20 championships begin two days later in Puebla, Mexico.

Of the three, only Clarke has Major League Soccer game experience.

The Richmond product made his MLS debut for the Whitecaps on Aug. 15 against FC Dallas, substituting on for Kenny Miller to close out the remaining nine minutes of the match.

Alderson, who turned 19 on Tuesday, signed a Generation Adidas contract as a homegrown player in November 2011.

Essa, who hails from Surrey, made his debut with the Whitecaps reserves squad last March.

METRO

School Day Game

Heat deliver a win to young fans

What better way to spend a school day than to watch a professional hockey game?

The Abbotsford Heat of the American Hockey League defeated the Rochester Americans 3-2 Tuesday, with 6,172 fans — most of them school-aged children — in attendance at the Abbotsford Entertainment and Sports Centre.

The Heat, opening up a four-game home stand, were hosting their second annual School Day Game.

Coquitlam's Ben Street scored once and added an assist on Joe Piskula's winning goal with four minutes remaining in the second period.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

From left, Aaron Volpatti, Chris Tanev, Jason Garrison and Keith Ballard congratulate Jordan Schroeder on his winning goal against the Chicago Blackhawks on Friday. Tanev and Ballard have emerged this season as the team's most reliable defensive pairing. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defensive pair show 'natural chemistry'

NHL. Chris Tanev and Keith Ballard have stood out on Vancouver's blue-line for their solid play

Quoted

"I think early ... he caught a lot of people off guard. He was this tall, lanky kid who shows up (at) training camp and he just continues to get better."

Canucks defenceman Keith Ballard talking about Chris Tanev

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Hockey can be a strange game.

Who knew that through the first nine games of the Vancouver Canucks' season, their most consistently reliable defence pairing would be Keith Ballard and Chris Tanev?

A reward for their recent efforts was sure to follow.

Tanev scored on a perfect laser of a wrist shot past Devan Dubnyk for his first National Hockey League goal with 20 seconds remaining in overtime to earn the Canucks a 3-2 Monday night win over the Edmonton Oilers.

Ballard wasn't credited with an assist, but it was his nifty foot work along the boards — with his stick tied up, he neatly kicked the puck to Daniel Sedin — that set off a rapid chain of events that resulted in the Tanev goal.

Their statistics aren't sexy.

Tanev, who doesn't possess an overpowering shot, has one goal and one assist, while Ballard is still searching for his first point.

However, and perhaps more importantly, they lead all Vancouver blue-liners with plus-four ratings.

The two have been paired together for bits and pieces of the previous two seasons and it's now beginning to show in a positive light.

Communication, like in any working partnership, has been instrumental to their success, said Ballard.

"We try not to leave stuff to chance out there," said Ballard last week prior to Friday's meeting with the Chicago Blackhawks.

"Since we started playing together a few years ago, we've got a bit of just natural chemistry."

The undrafted Tanev signed with the Canucks organization as a free agent in May of 2010 after a year in what one might assume to be relative obscurity at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

He made his professional debut on Oct. 8, 2010, with the Manitoba Moose.

Eight months and two day later, he was playing in the Stanley Cup final.

"I think early ... he caught a lot of people off guard," said Ballard.

"He was this tall, lanky kid who shows up (at) training camp and he just continues to get better."

4 SPORTS

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Tennis. Raonic ready to continue his rise in 2013

Milos Raonic is one of the biggest young stars on the ATP Tour and he's riding high after anchoring Canada's recent upset win over Spain in Davis Cup play.

The future is bright for the 22-year-old right-hander from Thornhill, Ont., who currently sits at a career-high No. 13 in the world rankings. His next mission is to take the necessary steps to continue his steady growth on the ATP Tour.

It won't be easy to crack that upper echelon, where the sport's elite players are rooted. The top level is filled with battle-tested veterans who are loaded with experience and seem to be a half-step ahead of the rest.

Raonic appears well-positioned to get there down the road — it seems to be just a matter of when.

"I think I'm capable of a lot of things," Raonic said Tuesday of the season ahead. "I've set my goal to make London at the year-end (championship). That would probably put me in the top eight. So all these kind of things I look forward to.

"I've just got to work one match at a time and try to keep getting better throughout the year."

Raonic is known for his booming serve and power game. But he has worked hard over the last few years to improve his return skills and net play.

No. 13 in the world, Milos Raonic is best known for his booming serve. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It was a more well-rounded Raonic that clinched an upset win for Canada last weekend.

In the deciding match, Raonic kept Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez on his heels and was able to dictate the pace of play. Raonic still relied on his heavy serve, but also worked his opponent around the court and was aggressive with his volleys.

The straight-set victory at the University of British Columbia put Canada through to the Davis Cup World Group quarter-finals for the first time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skiing

Crash spells end of Vonn's season

The U.S. Ski Team says Lindsey Vonn has torn the ACL and MCL in her right knee and also has a broken bone after a horrific crash Tuesday at the world championships.

The team says Vonn will undergo surgery and will miss the rest of this season.

She is expected to return in time for the 2014 Sochi Olympics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia sparing no expense on Games

Countdown to Sochi Olympics. President Putin using event to showcase a prosperous Russia to the world

One year before Russia hosts its first Winter Olympics, this Black Sea resort is a vast construction site sprawling for nearly 40 kilometres along the coast and 50 kilometres up into the mountains. After arriving at Sochi's new airport, there's no escape from the clang and clatter of the drilling, jackhammering and mixing of cement that drowns out the hum of the sea and the birdsong.

For Russia and its leadership, the 2014 Sochi Games is not just a major sports event but a point of national pride. President Vladimir Putin has made the Olympics his personal project and, determined to use them to showcase a powerful and prosperous Russia, has spared no expense to make sure the games are a success.

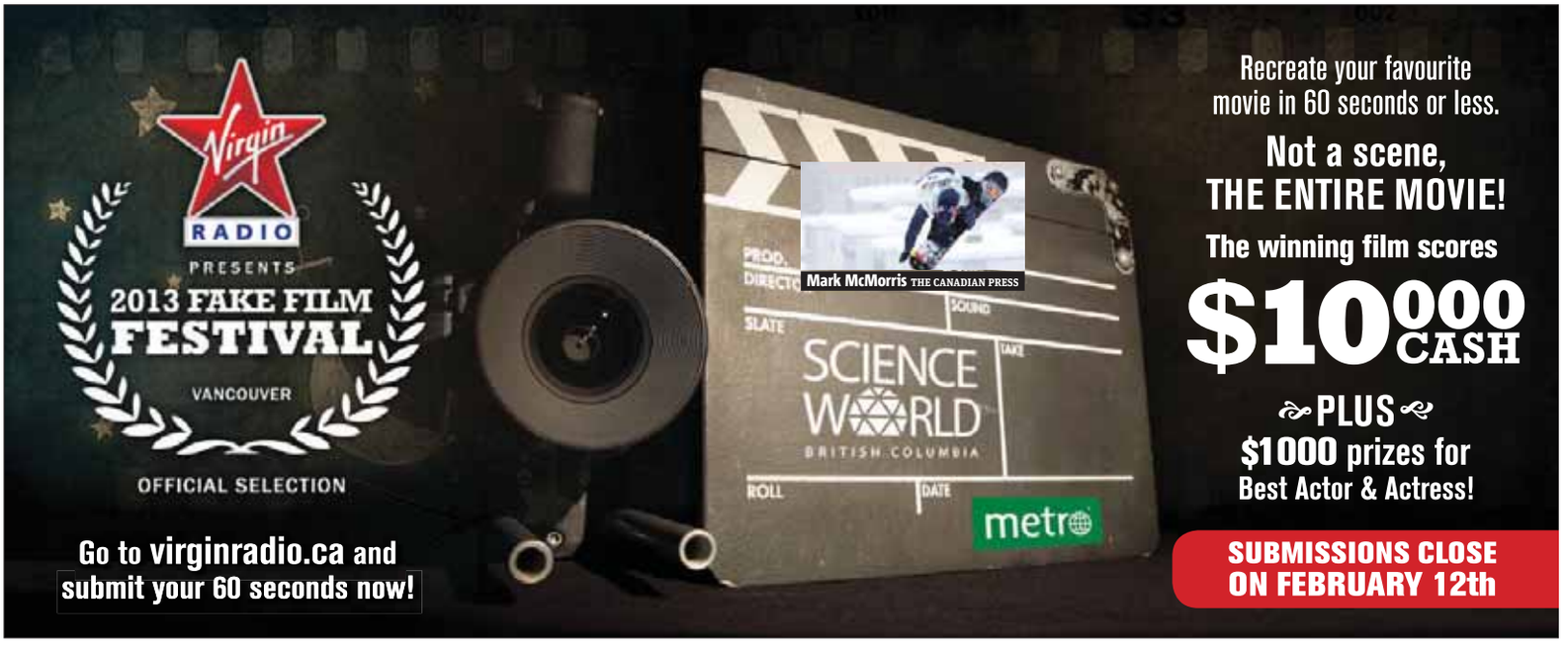
On Thursday, Putin will be in Sochi to preside over a lavish celebration marking the one-year countdown to the opening ceremony on Feb. 7, 2014.

"The project is under his permanent control and we enjoy the full government support," Sochi organizing committee head Dmitry Chernyshenko said. "This really is his games because he recognizes the power of these games, the greatest ever catalyst to accelerate positive change."

An aerial view of the Olympic Park on Monday in Sochi, Russia, as construction continues in the lead-up to the Winter Games in 2014. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The current overall price tag for the games is $51 billion, more than four times as much as Russia estimated when it was awarded the Olympics in 2007. This would make Sochi the most expensive Olympics in history, surpassing the $40 billion that China is believed to have splashed out for the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing. For Sochi, at least half the money is coming from state coffers, with most of the rest being put forward by state-controlled companies and Russian tycoons.

The costs are high because they include extensive infrastructure development in addition to construction of the Olympic venues, almost all of which had to be built from scratch. Most of the sports venues have already been completed or will be in the next few months, while armies of workers are busy building hotels and additional Olympic facilities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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The 2013 Mini Paceman

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Fuel economy

The little hatchback's fuel-consumption estimate of 7.4 l/100 km in the city and 5.7 on the highway (for the base 1.6) is impressive. Note that all Paceman engines require more expensive premium fuel that offsets some of the perceived efficiency.

It's very roomy in the trunk.

2013 Mini Paceman

- **Type.** Two-door, front-, AWD-compact hatchback
- **Engine (hp).** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (121); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (181-218)
- **Transmission.** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt.)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $28,550

Engine

Under the hood it's a case of if you've seen one Mini you've seen them all as the available engines are offered in all seven Mini body styles. The base Cooper's 1.6-litre four-cylinder makes 121 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque, while the optional turbo-charged 1.6 in the Cooper S ups those numbers to 181/177.

Design

The tough-dude front end design of the Paceman includes a grille that makes the vehicle look as though it's frowning at the world, but it surely gives it character. Other distinctive characteristics encompass teardrop-shaped tail lights and rear fenders bulge out slightly from the quarter panels.

Review. Somehow Mini found yet another niche

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

They might all, literally, be Mini, but BMW's Britain-based division is expanding in a big way. The latest edition is the Paceman, which is a two-door hatchback (based on the Countryman four-door model) that arrives this spring.

Where the Countryman appears as a conservatively styled wagon, the Paceman's sportier looks hint at its more playful nature around town, on the open road, or over rougher terrain with its available all-wheel-drive. You would think the Paceman's sloping roofline and liftgate would adversely affect stowage space.

Surprisingly, that's not the case, with the Paceman surrendering only about six per cent volume with the rear seats in place and about eight per cent when they're folded flat.

The interior includes four adjustable bucket seats — also adapted from the Countryman — that are especially attractive.

Of course the Mini's signature round dash gauges are very much in evidence, although not quite as in-your-face as those installed in the basic Mini Cooper or Mini Clubman. Rumour has it the next-generation Mini will adopt a more conventional layout, which would likely be a step in the right direction.

What is decidedly non-conventional is the Paceman's illuminated centre-rail floor console to which you can attach a cellphone base, cup holders, sunglasses case and other accessories. And it also comes equipped with the usual gadgets and extras.

The Paceman's unique mix of sporty style and practicality, with an available side order of rough-road ruggedness, makes it perhaps the best reason yet to consider parking a Mini in your driveway.

The interior is simple, futuristic and comes with the signature round gauges.

There are four adjustable bucket seats inside.

By comparison

1 LR Evoque Coupe
Base price: $62,900

2 Volkswagen GTI
Base price: $30,750

3 VolvoC30
Base price: $30,600

A gadget-enhanced driving experience

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The Yada Digital Baby Camera/Monitor.

The Mastercraft Pitcart would fit in at a NASCAR race. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

It's a time-honoured tradition: improving and personalizing your vehicle through gadgets.

The tradition was founded, one could argue, with the Ford Model T.

"A Ford was born naked as a baby, and a flourishing industry grew up out of correcting its rare deficiencies and combating its fascinating diseases," wrote E.B. White of the Model T, in his famous essay, Farewell My Lovely, first published in the May 16, 1936 edition of The New Yorker.

He began his essay by lamenting the new Sears Roebuck catalogue, which by that point only had one page devoted to Model T accessories and parts. This was in contrast to the "spring times when the Ford gadget section was larger than men's clothing, almost as large as household furnishings."

Of course, back in those days, a Model T gadget could be something like a rear view mirror, a foot accelerator to replace the standard hand accelerator, or a tire patch kit. According to White, every Model T owner back then "was capable of putting on a patch, expected to, and did have to."

Now we're expected to be drinking coffee and responding to text messages while driving.

In fact, Fiat's European division has come up with the world's first in-car espresso maker. Fiat 500L buyers in Europe can order this maker directly from Fiat. It slides into the centre console and makes nice, hot espresso whenever you want, as long as the 500L is in park. It doesn't look like we'll get it in North America. We still don't get a lot of the interesting and sporting vehicle and powertrain options the Europeans get — now we have to add portable espresso machines to the off-limits list. Damn you old world power.

But just as well, as there are lots of other new gadgets that need our attention.

I recently attended Canadian Tire's press event, highlighting some of its new automotive products for the upcoming spring season. A lot of car cleaning and man-cave garage type stuff. A lot of electronic stuff.

My favourite garage/tool item is the Mastercraft Pitcart — a huge toolbox on wheels worthy of a NASCAR team.

But nothing says gadget like an electronic gadget. Electronic gadgets that further connectivity, safety, navigation, entertainment, etc., are exploding in number these days.

Mandi Paquin-Johnson, Canadian Tire's car category buyer, told us that the Yada Digital Baby Camera/Monitor is one of the bigger electronic gadget hits over the last year. The monitor mounts on the front dash, so you never have to swivel your head to see how junior's doing in the backseat. "Everyone who's tried one loves it," says Paquin-Johnson.

Because the electronic industry moves faster than the automotive industry, I don't think there will ever be a shortage of such new gadgets that people will want to incorporate into their driving experiences. This should ensure that the gadget tradition would continue to thrive, even though cars no longer come from the factory, as the Model T once did, "naked as a baby."

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Less Fuel. More Power. Great Value is a comparison between the 2013 and the 2012 Chrysler Canada product lineups. 40 MPG or greater claim (7.0 L/100 km) based on 2013 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. See dealer for additional EnerGuide details. Wise customers read the fine print: •, ▪, ‡, § The All the Best in 2013 Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating dealers on or after February 1, 2013. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealers for complete details and conditions. •$19,998 Purchase Price applies to 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E+CL9) only and includes $8,100 Consumer Cash Discount. Pricing includes freight ($1,500-$1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. See participating dealers for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select new 2013 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. ‡4.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package models to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Auto Finance and Ally Credit Canada. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. See your dealer for complete details. Examples: 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of $19,998 (including applicable Consumer Cash Discounts) financed at 4.49% over 96 months with $0 down payment equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $115 with a cost of borrowing of $3,823 and a total obligation of $23,821. Pricing includes freight ($1,500-$1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. §2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $27,395. Pricing includes freight ($1,500-$1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. ¤Based on 2013 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Transport Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan – Hwy: 7.9 L/100 km (36 MPG) and City: 12.2 L/100 km (23 MPG). ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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Service All Makes	✓YES	✓YES	✓YES	✓YES
Goodwrench 15 Point Inspection	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
Complimentary Shuttle Service	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
Wash & Vacuum	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
Factory Trained Technicians	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
Latest GM Technology	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
State of The Art Facility	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
Appointment Required	• NO	• NO	• NO	• NO

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CHEVROLET Cadillac GMC BUICK

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have been extremely active mentally of late and your mind could probably use a rest. Try to treat yourself more gently over the next 24 hours. Even an Aries needs a break once in a while.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The most important thing now is that you don't change your aims unless you are certain it's the right thing to do. It is better to finish what you started, even if your passion for it is not what it once was.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Mercury, your ruler, joins forces with Neptune, planet of imagination, so you are sure to come up with some ideas. Whether they can do something for you remains to be seen. Never stop thinking.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Watch what you say today because you don't want to let slip information that others have no right to know — and which they can use against you. Be wary of people who try to talk to you about personal matters.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Your judgment could be a bit off target today, so be careful if someone approaches you with a plan to make money. It could be they are genuine but unless you are sure it might be wise to give it a miss.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Even if you are the sort of Virgo who is good at disguising feelings, you will still be a bit emotional today. Remember, it's not that others have upset you which matters but how you choose to react.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you act on impulse today, you could make a serious mistake. Then you will have to take foolish risks to try to cover up that mistake and before you know it, everything will be falling apart. Don't do it!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will get plenty of advice from well-meaning people today, but deep down you already know what needs to be done. Stop wasting time discussing the issue and start doing the things that will change your life.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some things are important and some things are not. Do you know which is which? No matter how much your career means to you, it is your home life you need to focus on over the next few days.

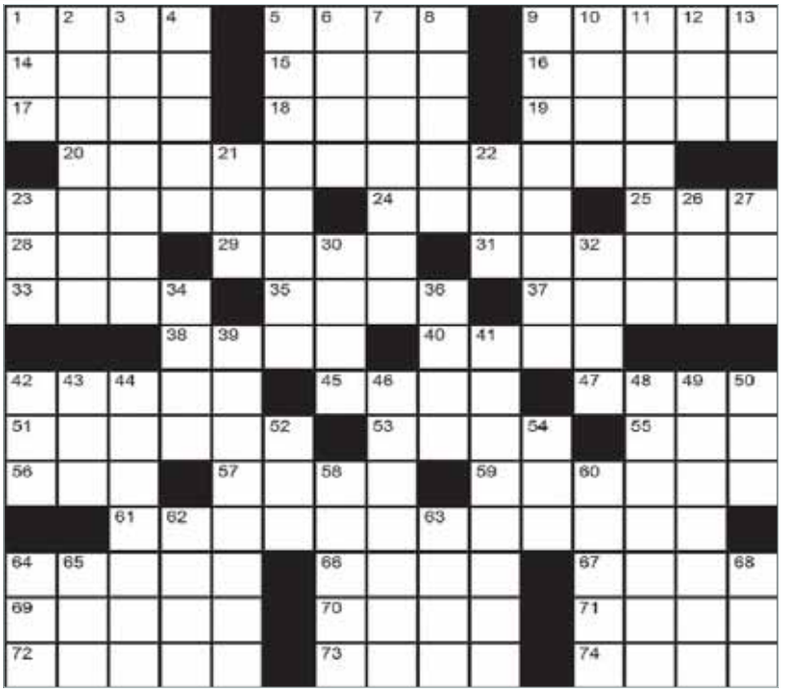
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will be rather controversial in some of the things you say over the next 24 hours, so don't be surprised if people get upset. Be that as it may, you have a duty to tell the truth as you see it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be having second thoughts about a project of some kind but if you pull out now you could lose a lot of money. Can you afford it? Also, can you afford what it might do to your reputation?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Neptune, your ruling planet, is strong in your chart today, which means you know exactly what needs to be done. But do you have the courage to do it? If you do you will make rapid progress. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

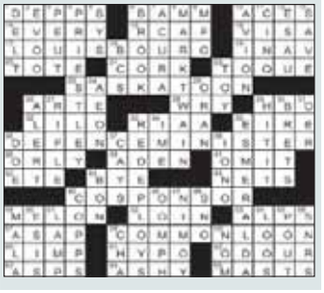
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Dot-__ (Web businesses)
5. Pelletier's skating partner
9. Calf-length pant
14. Take __ the waist, as alterations: 2 wds.
15. Do needlework
16. Utilize a crane
17. Designer Ms. Wang
18. __ _ fever (Ailed)
19. Smallest litter puppies
20. Mick E. Moose is this team's mascot: 2 wds.
23. Maple Leafs great Mr. Clark
24. Carnivore's craving
25. Energy unit
28. "__ Haw"
29. Jazz singer Ms. Fitzgerald
31. Dotted-line endorser
33. Gumbo ingredient
35. Long times
37. Foodie
38. Australian rock group
40. "Woodstock" gr.
42. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spin-off
45. Ginger cookie
47. Consequently
51. Angel
53. Mr. Clapton
55. 'Ranch' suffix
56. Director Mr. Lee
57. Air freshener brand
59. Toronto's __ Phillips Square
61. New Brunswick, e.g.: 2 wds.
64. Paul McCartney song: "__ __ Was Lonely"
66. Jai __ (Court game)
67. Nons opposites
69. Allied beachhead site in Italy in WWII
70. Confined
71. One being taken advantage of
72. Country singer Ms. Rimes
73. 'Henn' ender (Canadian actress Jill)
74. Quiz

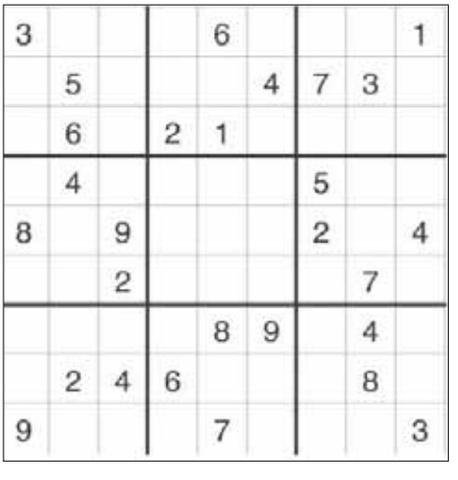
Down
1. Caesar's 104
2. Seven days: 2 wds.
3. Seafarer
4. "__ by Me" (1986)
5. Dubstep artist whose real name is Sonny Moore
6. Take _ __ (Rest)
7. Offensive __ (Football position)
8. Story, in a house, in French
9. 20th Prime Minister, Jean __
10. August: French
11. Canadian actor Gordon
12. After-Q queue
13. "__ Too Late" by Carole King
21. Maiden name indicator
22. Affirmatives, in Austria
23. Five Ws, just one
26. British R&B singer, Des'__
27. Munich's locale [abbr.]
30. Sports defeat
32. Music legend Marvin
34. Verdi opera
36. Incision leftover
39. __ Bonaparte
41. Michael J. Fox series: 2 wds.
42. Cape Town's home [acronym]
43. She-chicken
44. Wedding dress material
46. Sugarland singer Jennifer
48. Find new lodgings for
49. Some sauces
50. Suffix with 'Ball'
52. Mount __ (Sacred mountain in China)
54. Pen part
58. Severus __ ('Harry Potter' books character)
60. Freshwater fish
62. Identical
63. 'Christ' suffix (Some religious people)
64. Seasickness, __ de mer
65. Suffix with 'Meth'
68. Fixed

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	3	6	4	1	8	5	7
5	1	6	8	7	9	4	3	2
4	7	8	2	5	3	1	9	6
7	8	5	4	1	2	3	6	9
1	3	9	7	6	5	2	8	4
6	4	2	9	3	8	7	1	5
9	8	1	5	2	7	6	4	3
3	5	7	1	6	4	9	2	8
8	6	4	3	9	8	5	7	1

Today
8°/3°
Rain
90%

Thursday
6°/1°
Showers
90%

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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FINANCING FOR UP TO 84 MONTHS

ON SELECT MODELS

Limited model shown

2013 ELANTRA

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

OWN IT FOR **$96** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$17,444♦**

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: 148HP • iPOD®/USB/AUXILIARY INPUT JACKS • POWER WINDOWS & DOOR LOCKS • DUAL HEATED POWER EXTERIOR MIRRORS

SE with Tech. shown

2013 ELANTRA GT

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8L/100 KM

OWN IT FOR **$107** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$19,544♦**

ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & $1,100 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS* INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER $21K)

INCLUDES AIR CONDITIONING

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: DRIVER SELECTABLE STEERING (DSS) • HEATED FRONT SEATS • SIRIUS XM RADIO WITH BLUETOOTH® HANDS FREE PHONE SYSTEM • COOLED GLOVE BOX

Limited model shown

2013 TUCSON

HWY: 7.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.4L/100 KM

OWN IT FOR **$124** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **0.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$21,759♦**

TUCSON L 5-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

INCLUDES AIR CONDITIONING

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: iPOD®/USB/MP3/AUXILIARY INPUT JACKS • POWER HEATED EXTERIOR MIRRORS • EZ LANE CHANGE ASSIST

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

OWN IT FOR **$166** BI-WEEKLY | WITH **1.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SELLING PRICE: **$28,259♦**

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV (OVER $35K)

INCLUDES AUTO & AIR

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: SIRIUS XM RADIO WITH BLUETOOTH® HANDS FREE PHONE SYSTEM • VEHICLE STABILITY MANAGEMENT W/ESC & TRACTION CONTROL SYSTEM • HEATED FRONT SEATS

2013 SONATA GL

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

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NATURAL RESOURCE CANADA'S
2012 ECOENERGY VEHICLE AWARD◊

Limited model shown

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INCLUDES AUTO & AIR

SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM
COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY™

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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19459 Langley Bypass
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D#30780

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